



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 29, 2007

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Free Screening of Billie Holiday documentary at Central Library *Program to Explore the Jazz Vocalists*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will present Matthew Seig's 1991 documentary film *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday* on Sunday, April 29, at 2:00 p.m. This free event will be held in the third floor auditorium at the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. The viewing and discussion will be moderated by Professor Rick Helzer, Associate Director of Jazz Studies at San Diego State University's School of Music and Dance. Mr. Helzer will also give a short presentation before the movie. Leo Cates, on-air personality from KSDS-FM, Jazz 88.3, will be on hand to welcome participants. Essays written by eminent scholars and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs will be available.

The film traces Holiday's troubled and difficult life while celebrating her artistry. Screenwriter Robert O'Meally has said that the movie was written as an answer to those commercial films and documentaries that would simplify or sensationalize her story and thus the story of the jazz tradition in singing. The film includes many of her signature tunes, such as "St. Louis Blues," "Strange Fruit," and "God Bless the Child." Interviews provide insight into the life of this giant of American music.

This program, entitled "The Jazz Vocalists," is the fourth in the library's six-part documentary film viewing and discussion series "Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form." Women's collaboration and interaction with their male counterparts changed the music for the better. Singers such as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald employed intelligence, wit and intense expressivity. Their presence contributed new approaches to sound, melody, rhythm, text and performance style.

"Looking At: Jazz" explores the history of jazz, an art form that evolved in the 20th century to occupy a unique place in American cultural history. The series is a project of Re:New Media in partnership with the American Library Association and Jazz at Lincoln Center, with major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and support from San Diego State University and KSDS. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. More information about the program is available at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

Additional jazz-related events will be held by the San Diego Public Library and its local partnering institutions in this venture, San Diego State University's School of Music and Dance, which has the largest jazz studies program in California, and KSDS Jazz 88.3, San Diego's premier jazz radio station, affiliated with San Diego City College.

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www.sandiegolibrary.org

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Other “Looking At: Jazz” Programs

Each program will last about two hours, including a 15-to-20 minute introductory presentation, one hour of viewing, and a 45-minute discussion. Programs will be moderated by local jazz scholars. These free events will be held in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

- May 6 at 2 p.m.: Jazz Innovators: From Bebop, to Hard Bop, to Cool and More
Film: *Celebrating Bird: The Triumph of Charlie Parker* (Gary Giddens, 1987)

- May 20 at 2 p.m.: Latin Jazz and Jazz as an International Music
Film: Excerpts from *A Night in Havana: Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba* (John Holland, 1988)

Affiliated Events

(All events are free and open to the public unless indicated otherwise)

San Diego Public Library

Wed., May 9, 7:00 p.m., Pacific Beach Branch Library

Concert: Featuring Lori Bell, jazz flute

Sat., June 9, 12:00 p.m., Beckwourth Branch Library

Film: *A Night in Havana: Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba*

Jazz Concerts at San Diego State University

Mon., Apr. 23, 12:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo II, Smith Recital Hall

Mon., Apr. 23, 6:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Orchestra, Smith Recital Hall. Admission: \$10.00

Mon., Apr. 23, 7:30 p.m., SDSU Jazz Orchestra, Smith Recital Hall. Admission: \$10.00

Tues., Apr. 24, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Ensemble, Smith Recital Hall

Wed., Apr. 25, 12:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo III, Smith Recital Hall

Wed., Apr. 25, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combo I, Smith Recital Hall

Thurs., Apr. 26, 7:00 p.m., SDSU Jazz Combos IV and V, Smith Recital Hall

KSDS, Jazz 88.3

Tues., Apr. 10, 8:00 p.m.: David "Fathead" Newman, Jazz Live, Saville Theater, City College.
\$10 general admission; free to Jazz 88.3 members.

Thurs., Apr. 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m.: KSDS Listener Happy Hour, Park Manor Suites Hotel, 525 Spruce St., Hillcrest

Tues., May 8, 8:00 p.m.: Jazz Live, Saville Theater, City College. Artists to be announced. \$10 general admission; free to Jazz 88.3 members.

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